

# Powers to Talk To the Press — But How Much?

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President Kennedy promised yesterday that Francis Gary Powers would be available to Congressional committees and to the press as soon as the Central Intelligence Agency has finished questioning him. This will be "at the earliest feasible moment."

The President was explicit at his press conference, however, in saying that the U-2 pilot "will give whatever information would be in the national interest to give."

This may mean a full, detailed, satisfying story. Or it may mean that many fascinating parts of Mr. Powers' experience that every one is eager to hear about he will not be permitted to tell because disclosure would be deemed not in the national interest.

## Answer Must Wait

The President declined to answer a question yesterday as to whether Mr. Powers had been hit by a Soviet rocket at an altitude of 68,000 feet or whether his plane had developed engine trouble. Such questions, he said, should wait until after the government has talked the matter out with Mr. Powers.

Mr. Kennedy opened his twenty-fourth Presidential press conference with a statement saying that he was "deeply pleased" that the Communists had released Mr. Powers and Frederick I. Pryor, an American

wish to advise that the State Department and our son Francis will be making necessary news releases pertaining to incidents, facts and other matters pertaining to our son Francis.

"We saw Francis for two days and found his health to be fine and very happy to be back in the United States. Since Mrs. Powers and I wish to return to normal living, all information about our visit with Francis will be made by our attorneys, Cline & McAffe, of Norton."

The President told reporters that the U-2 pilot was "cooperating voluntarily" with the government, and added:

"At the conclusion of these discussions the information derived from these interviews will be made available to appropriate committees of the Congress, and Mr. Powers will be free to testify before the Congress, should the Congress so wish. Mr. Powers will be made available to the press at the earliest feasible moment."

"Mr. President," a reporter asked, "when Mr. Powers completes this interrogation and he is free to testify, what will his status be? Will the government still have any claim on his services, or will he be a free agent to go as he pleases?"

"Can Go As He Pleases"

"Well, he is a free agent, as I have said, at the present time to go as he pleases. He is cooperating voluntarily with the government, and at the conclusion of the present discussions he will be free to carry on whatever work he should choose."

Because Mr. Powers was under CIA jurisdiction as a pilot, he will be required to submit for CIA clearance anything he may wish to say about his methods, sources of information and so forth. This could result in a considerable limitation on his public utterances.

After the President's press conference, Sen. Richard B.

